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INCREASED USE OF
SECONDARY METHODS OF PETROLEUM EXTRACTION URGED

Efficient methods of exploiting petroleum deposits are mighty weapons in the struggle for increased extraction. Among these weapons are utilization of secondary methods of petroleum extraction and maintenance of stratum pressure. It is generally known that petroleum extraction from strata depends directly on the magnitude of stratum pressure. Continuous expenditure of stratum energy leads to a decrease in the output of the wells, frequently diagnosed incorrectly as exhaustion of the stratum. Actually, half the supply of oil remains in the stratum. This residual petroleum is an important reserve and must be extracted by employing secondary methods.

In the new Five-Year Plan, provisions have been made for the wide introduction of secondary methods. Meanwhile, secondary methods of petroleum extraction have not been given proper attention by Azneft' [Azerbaydzhanskoye Neftyanoye Khozyaystvo]. Among the most guilty are the leaders of petroleum trusts and traders who have inexcusably delayed carrying out the designated measures for secondary methods, having failed to perceive their importance. Operations have been carried on unsystematically, without proper control or regulation of processes. Even in those regions where positive results were achieved in individual experimental areas, the methods were not used widely enough.

Appreciating the economic significance of secondary methods of extraction of petroleum, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Azerbaydzhanskoye Neftyanoye Khozyaystvo demanded of the Azneft' directors and its trusts a quick end to this underestimation of secondary methods. By the end of 1948, no less than 2,000 wells are to be operating under secondary methods. This figure alone speaks for the enormous scope of the future operations. The vast supplies of residual petroleum must be tapped.

The Arzeneft', Buzovnyeft', Leninneft', Kirovneft', Stalinneft', Ordzhonikidzineft', and Kirovabadneft' Trusts have received clear-cut instructions from Azneft' concerning the institution and application of secondary methods of operation. Directors of these trusts must realize that with a

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technically correct handling of the process, the coefficients of petroleum extraction from strata can be sharply raised. This will effect a significant increase in industrial reserves and a growth in output of wells.

Chief engineers, petroleum trust geologists, enterprise managers, and senior geologists are personally obligated to select objectives for secondary methods, to establish plans for supervising the process, and to adjust the forcing process.

To guarantee proper selection of objectives and careful drafting of technological plans, the Technical Council on Secondary Methods has been set up in the Arzneft'.

A large volume of secondary method operations has been projected for 1947. Plans for forcing compressed air into petroleum levels have been projected by Kirovneft', Stalinneft', Leninneft' and Ordzhonikidzeneft Trusts. Strata have been selected for repression.

In the new Shabandag deposits, compressed air will be pumped into the main sections of the exploited levels of the Kirmakinskiy strata to maintain pressure.

Extra-contour (zakonturnyy) flooding has been started by 13 sections of the Leninneft' Trust. To maintain pressure in the stratum, extra-contour flooding of the Podkirmakinskiy strata of Buzovny-Mashtaginskiy deposit is under consideration.

The flooding of the second level of the Kalinskiy deposit is contemplated. The preparatory work for contour (prikonturnyy) flooding in the Arzneft' Trust is in process. Planning for surface flooding at Khorozyany has been started. The Marietta method is being utilized by the Leninneft', Stalinneft', and Kirovneft' Trusts.

The first positive results have been achieved by these trusts. The various enterprises of the Kirovneft' (PK /sic/ of the southern wing of the Binagadianskiy deposits) have increased daily output by 20-25 percent. In the short period since introduction of the process, the trust has produced more than 6,500 additional tons of petroleum.

However, the effectiveness of the process on a number of wells was not made apparent since the technological method was not revised in accordance with changing conditions in the strata. Poor timing of subterranean repair work on wells subjected to repression and the failure to properly supervise the operation of the process have delayed success.

The Arzneft' Technical Council on Secondary Methods recently discussed extra-contour flooding in the Buzovneft' enterprises. Preparatory operations for extracting caustic water and determining the absorptive capacity of the wells were found to be unsatisfactory.

Realization of the various flooding operations is hindered also by the absence of a sufficient supply of the working agent -- water. Despite the fact that a great deal of water is extracted along with petroleum, the trusts have not yet provided for its storage. In almost all regions a considerable number of wells is situated beyond the periphery of the oil-bearing area. The trusts should determine the highest producing wells beyond the periphery and begin exploiting them for water.

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The realization of secondary methods has been retarded by the Aznefteproekt (planning) and the Azneftepromstroi (construction) organizations. The planning of water-purification plants must be standardized and simplified. But the Aznefteproekt has chosen to complicate organization of these plants and increase the cost and time needed for their construction. The Azneftepromstroi has not even begun construction of a water purification plant.

Effecting of secondary methods is bound up with the physical nature of the strata. The determination of the percentage of buried water and the penetrability of the strata are very important problems. Test wells must be drilled. In preparation for such drilling, provisions must be made for obtaining all necessary data on the physical nature of the strata. Careless drilling of test wells can deprive technical plans of essential information and lower the quality of the plans.

Secondary methods will go into high gear in 1948. But it is necessary to select objectives immediately and to lay technological plans so that the necessary number of wells will be drilled in 1948.

The Apsheron Peninsula is rightly called the petroleum treasure-house of the USSR. Beneath it flow immeasurable reserves of petroleum. Secondary methods of exploitation, together with a survey of active wells and improvement of technological plans, are reliable sources of growth for our petroleum industry.

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